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## BOOK REVIEWS

*The American Nation: A History. Volume II. Basis of American History, 1500-1900.* By LIVINGSTON FARRAND, A.M., M.D., Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University. New York and London: Harper Brothers. 1904. 8°, 303 pages, 1 pl., 10 maps.

The American nation as a political unit merely is a subject easily compassed by the historian, since its foundation lies not only within the period of written history, but within the narrow limits of discovery and colonization. But he who would venture to treat the national history in its fuller significance must carry his researches beyond the limits of the Columbian period and over a vast range of subject-matter; he must consider the races and cultures of the Old World and their far-reaching influence in the New; he must have an intimate acquaintance with the New World, giving due attention to its configuration, its climate, and its resources, and must build up the background of his picture with the history of the American race. These are the elements that, in the view of Dr Farrand, constitute the basis of the history of the American nation. The time may or may not have come for an adequate presentation of this history; the point of view may not yet be sufficiently remote for comprehensive vision, and the knowledge of the field and its complex phenomena may not be sufficiently complete; but our author has ventured on the task, and the future must determine the wisdom of the undertaking and the degree of his success.

In the earlier chapters the author depicts in a simple and effective manner the physical features of the continent, characterizing the areas fitted for human occupancy and pointing out the bearing of the mountain masses, the deserts, and rivers on the distribution of populations. He shows how the invading race advanced to the conquest of the fertile valleys and the prairies, and how the aborigines were pushed inland along the waterways, across the passes, and over the portages, until the great habitable areas were almost completely wrested from their grasp. The special areas that had nurtured the native communities and developed their peculiar culture now became the focal centers for the development of the new people and the new culture. Dr Farrand summarizes the characteristics of the great areas of human activity, and enumerates (touching all too lightly on the mineral kingdom) the resources which,

under the simple regime of the Indian, gave him an impulse toward civilization, and which in the stronger grasp of the white race created a new empire almost within the limit of a lifetime. Having covered this much of the ground, the author takes up the story of the native tribes as an essential part of the national history.

Chapter 5 is devoted to a consideration of the very important question of the antiquity of man in what is now the domain of the American nation. The geological evidence is dismissed with a few short paragraphs, leaving the impression that as yet little satisfactory proof of great antiquity has been found. Facts relied on when investigations began a few years ago as fully establishing the existence of conditions of occupancy and culture parallel with those of Europe, have more recently been given different and much simpler interpretations. Finds of artifacts in Glacial gravels are too few and too imperfectly attested to carry conviction to the conservative student, and it is pointed out that caves which have for untold centuries offered free shelter to the tribes that have come and gone, yield no trace of occupancy by others than the Indian tribes as known to us. It is justly considered, however, that the continent must have been occupied for thousands of years, the well-authenticated traces extending far back toward the period that witnessed the final retreat of the Glacial ice beyond the northern limits of the Great Lakes. The mound builders and the cliff dwellers, about whom much misconception and error have insisted on clustering, are relegated to their proper place in the simple history of Indian occupancy. In the light of the straightforward and judicious interpretations presented by Dr Farrand, the cobwebs of early misinterpretation are swept completely away.

In Chapter 6 a comprehensive glance is taken of the North American aborigines for the period beginning with 1500 and ending with 1900 — the period during which they have been under the observation of our own race. The first requisite in this presentation is a classification of the extensive and complex phenomena involved, and it is pointed out that four groupings of the tribes are possible: by physical characters, by languages, by geographical areas, and by culture groups. The physical characters are varied and pronounced, but difficult to formulate in such ways as to serve as a basis for treatment. The grouping by languages is regarded as the most satisfactory for scientific discussion, but the tribes north of Mexico present such a wonderful diversity of tongues that fifty-seven distinct linguistic groups or families are recognized, making impossible a brief and comprehensive treatment on this basis.

It is believed by Dr Farrand that a grouping by geographical areas

is the most satisfactory for his purpose, the areas being such as have, partly at least, through their peculiar characteristics of conformation and resources, led to the development of somewhat decidedly distinctive phases of culture. By this method the number of groups may be large or small as the treatment demands. Seven are considered sufficient for the author's purpose, and are as follows: (1) the Eskimo; (2) the tribes of the North Pacific coast; (3) the tribes of the Mackenzie river basin and the high plateaus; (4) the tribes of the Columbia river and California; (5) the tribes of the Great Plains; (6) the tribes of the eastern woodlands; and (7) the tribes of the Southwest and Mexico. The Eskimo occupy the northern shoreline of the continent from Bering sea to Greenland, and originally, it is surmised, extended south into New England. They are a people widely separated from the Indian in physical and mental characters, whose origin is not determined, but whose adjustment to the Arctic environment and unique resultant culture are among the most interesting and instructive lessons of aboriginal America. Contrasting strongly with the Eskimo, and presenting physical and cultural characters hardly less remarkable, are the tribes of the Northwest coast. The third group, assembled in the great northern inland region, connects with the Eskimo on the north and extends from the coast ranges on the west to Hudson bay on the east; while the fourth occupies the basin of Columbia river and the numerous minor valleys opening out to the Pacific in Oregon and California. The fifth group comprises the great warrior-hunter tribes of the inland plains, of which the Sioux are taken as the type; the sixth, the formerly powerful and strongly contrasting Iroquoian and Algonquian groups of the eastern woodland north and south, with which the English and French colonists had chiefly to deal; and the seventh, the many tribes of the Southwest and Mexico, presenting numerous physical types and greatly diversified cultures. Of the three hundred or more tribes thus passed under review, few could even be mentioned and fewer described by Dr Farrand with any degree of fulness in the brief space allotted; but the perusal of these chapters will give the reader an excellent notion of the people as a whole, and of the groups as assembled in the great specialization areas of the northern portions of the continent.

The chapters treating of the social organization of the tribes; houses, house life, and food quest; industrial life and warfare; religion, mythology, and art; and the character and future of the Indians, which follow, are excellent summaries of these subjects; and the final chapter, a critical essay on authorities, will prove to be of high value to the student.

Not without shortcomings such as necessarily result from the crowd-

ing of a vast subject within narrow limits (the faults of omission), this work is charmingly simple, direct, and comprehensive. The reader is not led into troublesome mazes of speculation, nor is he asked to skate on the thin ice of preconceived notions; the work must therefore prove a boon to schools and to the general public, which have too long been at the mercy of the hobby-rider and the sensation-monger. It is conservative and refreshingly healthy in tone throughout. The publishers will be fortunate if the other volumes of the composite work to which this one belongs reach an equal standard of excellence.

W. H. HOLMES

*An Outline of the Theory of Organic Evolution, with a Description of some of the Phenomena which it Explains.* By MAYNARD M. METCALF. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1904. 8°, xxii, 204 pages, illustrated.

This book, as the author says, is not intended for biologists, but for laymen, and especially for such as are somewhat young either in years or in science. But many a biologist could doubtless refresh his memory, dimmed by long special researches, by scanning its attractive pages, and especially its profuse and well-selected illustrations. It covers the entire field of organic nature, and the examples are drawn as well from plants as from animals. The author, although he says that he believes "that all nature is controlled by an intelligent Providence," is a thoroughgoing evolutionist. He is also open-minded, and accepts all the evidence from whatever source. For example, he gives some excellent illustrations of sexual selection, which some eminent evolutionists affect to discredit.

If the book were exclusively devoted to biology in the narrower sense of dealing with plants and the lower animals, it could not be expected that the *American Anthropologist* would give space to it, however meritorious, but the author has not stopped with animals in the ordinary sense. He has devoted a chapter to the evolution of man. In this he says:

"Study of human anatomy shows mankind to be probably a single species, belonging to the *Primates*, a group of the *Mammalia*, including, besides man, the lemurs and the apes and monkeys of the eastern and western hemispheres. Man is most related to the *Simiidae*, the tailless apes of Asia and Africa, including the gibbon, the orang, the chimpanzee, and the gorilla. It is usual to place humankind in a distinct family of *Primates*, *Hominidae*. It is now the general consensus of opinion that we should recognize but a single species and distinguish as subspecies the several races of men."